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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATICALLY CONTROLLING A PATH OF TRAVEL OF A VEHICLE**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The method and system for automatically controlling a path of travel of a vehicle include engaging an automatic control system when the security of the onboard controls is jeopardized. Engagement may be automatic or manual from inside the vehicle or remotely via a communication link. Any onboard capability to supersede the automatic control system may then be disabled by disconnecting the onboard controls and/or providing uninterruptible power to the automatic control system via a path that does not include the onboard accessible power control element(s). The operation of the vehicle is then controlled via the processing element of the automatic control system. The control commands may be received from a remote location and/or from predetermined control commands that are stored onboard the vehicle.

44 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

